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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/752,120	12/29/2000	Julio Estrada	LOT9-2000-0021 US1	8738
27085	7590	06/14/2004	EXAMINER	
IBM CORPORATION			VU, KIEU D	
LOTUS SOFTWARE			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
ONE ROGERS STREET			2173	13
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02142			DATE MAILED: 06/14/2004	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	09/752,120	ESTRADA ET AL. <i>[Signature]</i>
<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
Kieu D Vu	2173	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 April 2004.

2a) This action is **FINAL**.                    2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the layout" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "said components" in line 13. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "said component tags" in line 17. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 12 recites the limitation "the style and layout" in lines 1-2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 12 recites the limitation "said components" in line 5. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 12 recites the limitation "said collaboration space" in line 20. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 23 recites the limitation "the style and layout" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 31 recites the limitation "the layout" in line 4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 31 recites the limitation "said components" in line 14. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 31 recites the limitation "said component tags" in line 18. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 31 recites the limitation "said collaboration space" in lines 25-26. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 32 recites the limitation "the style and layout" in line 4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 32 recites the limitation "said components" in line 7. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 32 recites the limitation "said collaboration space" in lines 20-21. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-9, 12-16, and 22-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Salas et al ("Salas", USP 6233600).

Regarding claims 1 and 31, Salas teaches a method for controlling the layout of components (layout of a page) of a user interface to collaboration space (col 1, line 66 to col 2, lines 19), comprising providing for each component (element) of said layout a respective component tag, said components including side bar (navigation bar 404), page content (page element) (col 5, lines 21-27)

end user (team members) defining for each of a plurality of modes of operation of a skin including said component tags for representing each component selected for said mode of operation, said modes of operation including page view (files viewed) and page edit (file edited) (col 12, lines 7-22)

end user creating a skin group comprising said skins for all of said modes of operation (view mode and edit mode) (col 12, lines 1-6); and

end user importing said skin group into said collaboration space (file uploaded; col 12, lines 15-23).

Regarding claim 2, Salas teaches that said layout being an HTML page (col 2, lines 19-27) and said collaboration space being a place (eRoom)

Regarding claim 3, Salas teaches that said place being a file directory (col 3, lines 32-33).

Regarding claims 4 and 25, Salas teaches the dragging and dropping said page from a user desktop to an output control for uploading to a collaboration space server (col 13, lines 14-26).

Regarding claims 5 and 27, Salas teaches the organizing said collaboration space including room (eRoom), folder (col 7, line 19), page (col 3, lines 32-33).

Regarding claims 6 and 28, Salas teaches said user interface components including logo (col 5, lines 54-59), table of contents, action bar 404, tool bar 404, and page content (col 14, lines 46-50), and said display modes including page read mode, edit mode, folder (col 5, lines 38-53).

Regarding claims 7 and 15, Salas teaches the providing links to other collaboration space resources (col 2, lines 10-11).

Regarding claim 8, Salas teaches integrating said collaboration space with an existing web site by including in said page links to network resources (col 2, lines 10-11).

Regarding claims 9 and 24, Salas teaches the uploading said pages to a server (col 13, lines 10-13).

Regarding claims 12, 23, and 32, Salas teaches a method for controlling the layout of components (layout of a page) of a user interface to collaboration space (col 1, line 66 to col 2, lines 19), comprising providing for each component (element) of said layout a respective component tag, said components including side bar (navigation bar 404), page content (page element) (col 5, lines 21-27)

a user establishing a skin group including a set of hypertext markup language pages (HTML Page; col 2, lines 19-27) and a common style sheet page (template) for organizing said components into plurality modes (view mode and edit mode) for said

user interface, said modes including page view and page edit (files viewed and file edited) (col 12, lines 7-22);

specifying component positioning in said user interface in a set of hypertext markup language pages (col 5, lines 22-27); and specifying font, size and color style in a common style sheet page (col 37-49), and

said user importing said skin group into said collaboration space (file uploaded; col 12, lines 15-23).

Regarding claim 13, Salas teaches the rendering each said component on said hypertext markup language pages individually addressable (Fig. 4; col 2, lines 19-27).

Regarding claims 14 and 26, Salas teaches the rendering in a skin group said hypertext markup language and style sheet pages responsive to collaboration space tags; and responsive to a user request, importing said skin group into a place for instantiating said user interface (col 1, lines 35-45).

Regarding claim 16, Salas teaches the rendering said collaboration space to said user through said user interface (col 10, lines 66-67).

Regarding claim 29, Salas teaches modes (col 8, lines 55-56) and folder (reference numbers 417 and 482).

Regarding claim 30, Salas teaches theme of eRooms (col 7, lines 8-10).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 10-11, 17-19, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Salas and Van Der Meer ("Van Der Meer", USP 6415316).

Regarding claims 10-11, 17-19, and 21, Salas does not teach choosing a theme from a gallery of themes. However, such feature is known in the art as taught by Van Der Meer. Van Der Meer teaches a method for implementing a web page diary in which the user can choose a theme, change the theme (col 2, lines 26-29), or edit property of theme (col 10, lines 3-5). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teaching of Salas and Van Der Meer before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the interface system taught by Salas to include choosing, changing, or editing theme taught by Van Der Meer with the motivation being to give the user the ability to present the theme he or she desires.

Regarding claim 22, Van Der Meer teaches the default and changed themes (col 2, lines 26-29).

7. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Salas and Noguchi ("Noguchi", USP 5983184).

Regarding claim 20, Noguchi does not teach that the interface is structured for communication with a physically challenged user. However, such feature is known in the art as taught by Noguchi. Noguchi teaches a method for hypertext control through voice synthesis which enables a visually impaired user to freely and easily control hyper text (col 3, lines 9-11). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teaching of Salas and Noguchi before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the interface system taught by Salas to include the communication with

a visually impaired user taught by Noguchi with the motivation being to enable visually handicapped persons to access visual information displayed on the screen.

8. Applicant's arguments filed 02/27/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to Applicant's argument that "Salas does not teach that these components have tags and these component tags are imported into a page" and "Salas does teaches components, and does teach HTML, but does not teach the skin group, nor the new collaboration component tags invented by applicants", it is noted that such is not the case.

Salas teaches the skin group by teaching how components (elements, controls...) of a page will be displayed on a page (col 5, lines 38-67). Since web page is rendered by interpreting HTML tags (col 1, lines 35-45), these components should have corresponding tags to indicate to the browser how to display the components.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kieu D. Vu whose telephone number is (703-605-1232). The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thu from 7:00AM to 3:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca, can be reached on (703- 308-3116).

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:

(703)-872-9306

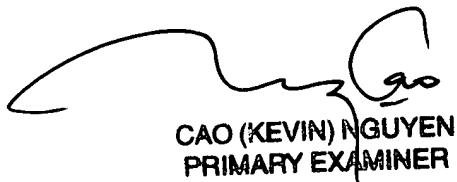
and / or:

(703)-746-5639 (use this FAX #, only after approval by Examiner, for  
"INFORMAL" or "DRAFT" communication. Examiners may request that a formal  
paper / amendment be faxed directly to them on occasions)

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or  
proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703-305-  
3900).

Kieu D. Vu

06/08/04



Handwritten signature of Kevin Nguyen, consisting of stylized, flowing lines.

CAO (KEVIN) NGUYEN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER